

Introduced by Senator Hernandez

July 11, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to National Health Center Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, as introduced, Hernandez. National Health Center Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of August 11 through August 17, 2013, as National Health Center Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers have been
2 at the core of the nation's health care safety net, serving anyone
3 and everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability
4 to pay, and they are the medical homes for more than 22 million
5 needy and uninsured patients; and

6 WHEREAS, According to multiple government, academic, and
7 private studies, community clinics and health centers have been
8 proven to be the most cost-effective health care providers in the
9 field, saving nearly \$24 billion annually by keeping patients out
10 of costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms; and

11 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers are private,
12 nonprofit corporations. The majority of their boards of directors,
13 by law, must be their patients and consumers, and their services
14 are funded primarily through public programs such as Medicaid,
15 federal grants, and state initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers in California
17 and throughout the nation have led the movement for a fair and
18 equitable health care system, treating medically underserved

1 populations in medically underserved areas, reaching into the inner
2 city, the most rural, and the most geographically isolated
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, In California, more than five million low-income
5 families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people
6 of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive
7 primary care services at more than 900 community clinics and
8 health centers throughout the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Primary care at California community clinics and
10 health centers involves a wide range of services, including
11 preventive care, chronic disease management, well child, dental,
12 pharmaceutical, immunization, mental health, substance abuse,
13 breast cancer, nutrition, family planning, and pregnancy-related
14 services, all of which are provided with particular sensitivity to
15 language and cultural competency; and

16 WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers
17 have the major responsibility for providing health care services to
18 the state's most disadvantaged families and individuals, will be at
19 the forefront in implementing the national Patient Protection and
20 Affordable Care Act, and are preparing to serve up to an additional
21 1.4 million newly eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries under the act,
22 as well as the several million persons who will remain uninsured;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, California's and the nation's community clinics
25 and health centers deserve to be recognized and acknowledged for
26 their valuable services to their communities and the state, their
27 cost-effective delivery of primary health care services to the most
28 vulnerable populations, and their leadership in working for fair
29 and equitable health care reform; and

30 WHEREAS, The federal government, many other states, and
31 local communities in all 50 states have observed and celebrated
32 an annual National Health Center Week for 30 years; now,
33 therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins in proclaiming the
36 week of August 11 through August 17, 2013, as National Health
37 Center Week; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature commends California's
39 community clinics and health centers for their valuable
40 contributions to the state, their communities, and the populations

1 they serve and urges the Members of the Legislature to visit their
2 local community clinics and health centers in observance of
3 National Health Center Week; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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